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Evidence of Major POL Storage Facilities at East China Airfields

An intensive survey of photography available in Washington reveals evidence of major POL storage facilities at four of the new airfields in the East China area opposite Formosa. These facilities are located at Mantai and Lungtien airfields in the Foochow area and at Lungchi and Ching-yang (Sha Ti) airfields in the Amoy area. Available photographic coverage does not reveal evidence of a similar storage facility at Cheng-hai airfield near Swatow. As of mid-July, the POL installations at Mantai and Lungtien were probably completed, while construction work was still in progress at Ching-yang and Lungchi airfields.

The POL storage facilities at each field are similar in construction and layout. Loop roads, approximately one mile in length, form the storage areas and connect with first-class roads extending to the airfields. At each area, there are up to 25 storage or bunker type installations (Lungtien - 25, Mantai - 19, Ching-yang - 24, Lungchi - 11) dispersed along both sides of the loop road. There are indications of an average of 12 small tanks in a row at each installation. The tanks appear to be about 5 feet in diameter and 10 feet long. In the finished installation, it is evident that the tanks are covered by earth or by low rectangular structures. Other small buildings, which are probably used for housing facilities for handling incoming fuel supplies, are also located along the roads at each area.

The size of the probable tanks identified at these fields is similar to that of the 300 tanks reportedly shipped to Swatow from Canton in mid-June. These tanks were reported to be about 10 feet long and 6 feet in diameter. It seems likely that they were intended for construction of storage facilities in the Swatow and Amoy areas.

The possible storage capacity at each field for jet type fuel, estimated on the number of tanks in evidence and assuming a tank size of 10 feet long and 5 feet in diameter, is as follows:

Mantai	1025 metric tons
Lungtien	1350 metric tons
Ching-yang	1300 metric tons
Lungchi	600 metric tons

With the exception of the Lungchi POL area, where further construction will probably take place, the estimated storage capacities are adequate to provide for sustained operational use by a complement of 40 MIG's for a period of 30 days at each field.

Source: CIA/ORR D/GP/I - 116, (Preliminary Draft), 27 July 1955, Secret/Noform.

Coordinated With: D/GP

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